

Remarks

This Amendment, along with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE), is being filed in response to the Final Official Office Action of the Examiner mailed December 16, 2002. Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal on March 17, 2003. Pursuant to MPEP § 1215.01, the filing of this RCE should be considered a withdrawal of the appeal by the Applicant.

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner, as well as Primary Examiner Srirama Channavajjala, for the courtesies extended during the interview of April 28, 2003. Both the Examiner and the Primary Examiner were very helpful in providing guidance on how to move this case forward. During the interview, the Examiner and the Primary Examiner appeared to acknowledge that the previous rejections were likely improper because they were based, at least in part, on non-analogous art. However, the Examiner and the Primary Examiner indicated that the claims did not appear to be real clear to them, and thus were interpreted extremely broadly. Based on the conversations at the interview, the undersigned agreed to withdraw the appeal, and file an RCE with an Amendment that better clarifies the claims. This Amendment is believed to clarify the claims, as requested by the Examiner and the Primary Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims 1-3, 5-20 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If the

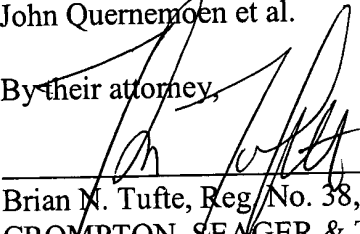
Examiner believes it would be beneficial to discuss the application or its examination in any way, please call the undersigned attorney at (612) 359-9348.

Respectfully submitted,

John Quernemoen et al.

By their attorney,

Dated: May 15, 2003



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